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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 20 MARCH 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED RESPECTIVELY TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that, as a result of acts of sabotage carried out by bands which infiltrated from a neighbouring State, the contents of the people's food warehouses were plundered in the cities and villages of the governorates of Basra, Wasit, Maysan, Dhi Qar, Al-Qadisiyah, Al-Muthanna, Najaf, Karbala and Babil.

Similar acts were perpetrated in the governorates of Sulaymaniyah, Arbil and Dahuk by other bands which entered from the same neighbouring State.

The plundering of basic foodstuffs and the destruction of public and private warehouses by these bands has resulted in a severe food crisis that has the most dire consequences for these 12 governorates, which account for the majority of the population of Iraq.

This extremely grave crisis necessitates the adoption of immediate measures by the Security Council to remove any form of embargo on the import of foodstuffs and supplies to Iraq.

It is clear that measures taken by the Sanctions Committee cannot, owing to their slowness, provide an adequate solution to this grave problem affecting the humanitarian needs of the citizens.

I request you to take urgent measures with a view to the consideration of this question by the members of the Council.

I further request you to have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdul Amir AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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